

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

09/869,359

Examiner

Lorna M. Douyon

Applicant(s)

YAMABOSHI ET AL.

Art Unit

1751

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to Amendment dated December 29, 2003.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1, 4-5, 7-13 and 6 renumbered 1-11 respectively.
3. ☒ The drawings filed on 28 June 2001 are accepted by the Examiner.
4. ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☒ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

5. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
 6. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
7. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☒ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date 10/10/03
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit
of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6. ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date _____
7. ☐ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other _____

Lorna M. Douyon
Lorna M. Douyon
Primary Examiner
Art Unit: 1751

REASONS FOR ALLOWANCE

1. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

The objection to the disclosure on page 3 is withdrawn in view of applicants' amendment. The claims in their present amended forms have overcome the prior art of record, including the newly found art to JP 63099296, because none of them teaches, discloses or suggests a process for preparing particles for supporting a surfactant in the manner as those recited. Williams, one of the close prior art, although teaches spraying the spray dried powder comprising sodium tripolyphosphate, sodium silicate, carboxymethyl cellulose and sodium sulphate with an aqueous solution of nonionic surfactant, fails to teach water-insoluble inorganic substance in the spray-dried powder and also fails to teach spraying an aqueous medium to the spray dried powder prior to supporting the surfactant. Cala, another close prior art, although teaches spraying sodium silicate solution onto tumbling spray-dried beads comprising sodium carbonate, sodium silicate, anionic and/or nonionic detergent and sodium carboxymethyl cellulose, fails to teach water-insoluble inorganic substance in the spray-dried powder. Cala also teaches a substantial amount of anionic and/or nonionic detergent in the spray-dried beads which is outside the scope of the present claims. Kubota, another close prior art, although teaches spray drying a slurry comprising zeolite, sodium polyacrylate, sodium carbonate and less than 5% by weight anionic surfactant to form base particles, fails to teach spraying an aqueous medium to the spray dried powder prior to supporting the surfactant. JP 63099296, a newly found art, teaches preparing detergents from spray dried powdered detergent base comprising a substantial amount of anionic surfactant, zeolite, sodium silicate, potassium carbonate by spraying the spray dried powdered detergent base with water, then with nonionic surfactant, and mixing with water-

Art Unit: 1751

insoluble fine powders (see abstract). JP '296 teaches substantial amount of anionic surfactant in the spray-dried powdered detergent base which is outside the scope of the present claims and also fails to teach water-soluble polymer in the spray-dried powdered detergent base.

Accordingly, the subject matter, as a whole, would not have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the detergent art.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

2. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Lorna M. Douyon whose telephone number is (571) 272-1313. The examiner can normally be reached on Mondays-Fridays from 8:00AM to 4:30 PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Yogendra Gupta can be reached on (571) 272-1316. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Lorna M. Douyon
LORNA M. DOUYON
PRIMARY EXAMINER